

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Ergophobia

By Walter E. Myer

SUPPOSE you were told that you were a victim of ergophobia. You would, perhaps, be greatly worried. Your anxiety would not be eased if you were told further that this affliction is responsible for many failures in life, that it is a serious obstacle to success, that it bars many from achievement in their vocations, that it is an affliction which, if not thrown off, may rob its victims of the satisfaction and rewards of which they dream.

If you should consult your physician he would probably tell you that there was not much that he could do about it, that the remedy was in your own hands. You would be encouraged to learn that the affliction was not incurable, but you would be warned that it should have immediate and concentrated attention; that, if not attended to, it would fasten itself more firmly upon you, rendering a cure more difficult.

Your physician might relieve your mind by assuring you that the malady was not at all unusual, that most people suffer more or less from it, and that its consequences were serious only in aggravated cases or to those who gave way to it and did not try to find a remedy.

By consulting your dictionary you will see that ergophobia is defined as "aversion to work." It is another term for "laziness." But however it may be defined, it is serious enough. Laziness, if not overcome, will make a failure of one's work and of his prospects of success.

No one should work all the time. There should be times for recreation and play and impulsive enjoyment. But there are other times when aversion to work must be conquered, when we must go on with our tasks even though we would prefer to do something else.

If you feel disinclined to do the work that is before you, remember that everyone else is often in the same boat. The difference between the man who succeeds and the man who fails is that one of them throws off the impulse to let things slide and the other gives way to it. An impulse of this kind can be conquered through continued effort, supported by the exercise of will power.

One who sets about to overcome laziness should study his case carefully. Sometimes it is a matter of health. One who is disinclined to work may need to change his habits of sleep or diet. He may need to gain physical strength.

As a usual thing, the change should be in mental habits. The habit of avoiding difficulties by ignoring them tends to paralyze effort and stifle ambition. It is a habit which can be thrown aside only by stiff determination.

In your classroom there are probably a number of cases of ergophobia. Some are light, others more serious. If you are one of the victims do something about it. Do it quickly, for the longer you wait the harder it will be to effect a cure. Habit is a powerful force.



Walter E. Myer



Let's stay fit!

Everyone agrees to this proposition, but opinion differs over whether we need compulsory military training in order to keep fit

Compulsory Training

Plans to Provide a Year of Military Service for All Young Men Debated in Congress and Throughout Nation

WHEN your class finishes high school, or at about that time, should its young men be sent to camp for military training? Should all the young men of the country have such training? Does the safety of the nation require that our government put a compulsory service plan into effect?

The adoption of such a program would break a national tradition. We have never had compulsory military service except in time of war or under immediate threat of war. Conditions change, however, with the years. The present world is not the world we knew in earlier days. Has the time come to change our military policy and enroll the young men of the nation for a period of training?

That question is now before our government. President Truman, who favors the idea of compulsory military training, has appointed a commission to study it from a long-range point of view. Meanwhile, a bill providing for such training has been introduced in Congress. It follows, in general, recommendations which the War Department published recently as a pamphlet entitled "Universal Military Training."

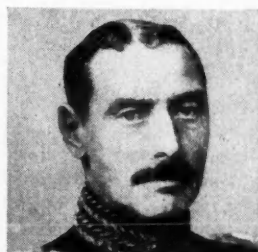
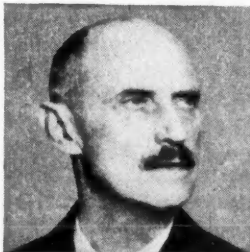
In brief, this is the system which the Army wants: All men 18 or 19 years old, if physically fit, would go to a camp and take military training. Ordinarily it would be taken at the age of 18. These men would be under con-

trol of the armed forces for instruction only. In case of war, men in training or those who had completed it could not be taken into the fighting forces except through a selective service system.

The men would take several months' intensive basic training in camp. Opinions differ on how long this period should be, but the Army favors six months. Then they could remain in camp for additional military work, or qualified ones could choose an alternative plan from among the following:

- (1) enlistment in a National Guard or Reserve unit;
- (2) study at an approved technical school;
- (3) college work, including a military training course;
- (4) appointment to the U. S. Military, Naval, or Coast Guard Academy; or
- (5) enlistment in the regular armed forces.

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DEMOCRATIC MONARCHS. Pictured above, left to right, are Kings Haakon of Norway, Christian of Denmark, and Gustav of Sweden. They serve primarily as symbols of national unity, and have very limited powers.

Northern Europe Seeks Security

Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark Want Friendship of All Major Powers

THE barren, glacier-covered islands of Spitsbergen have brought Norway into the midst of a new great-power controversy. Russia wants to build military bases on the bleak shores of this polar archipelago. The United States and Britain are opposed to the idea. Since they were parties to the agreement which gave Norway possession of Spitsbergen, they are insisting upon being consulted before any change is made in the status of the island group.

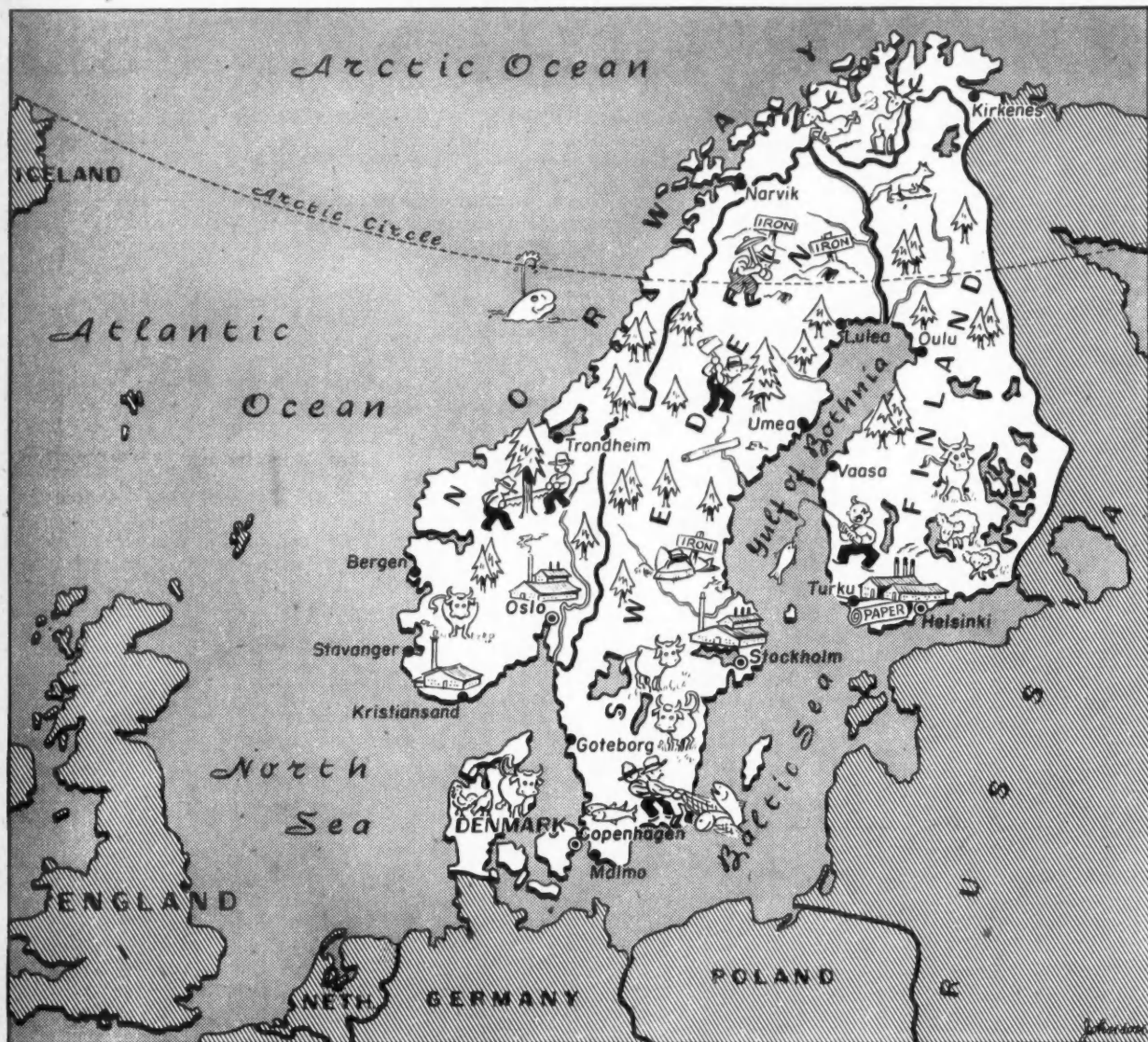
Although Spitsbergen has a good supply of coal, its location is the chief reason why the great powers are interested in it. Lying along the direct North Pole air route between Russia and the Americas, it could be very important in the event of another war.

Norway is anxious to settle this matter to the satisfaction of both Russia and the western powers. She knows that the only hope of peace and security for her is in maintaining the friendship of all the major powers, and in helping to promote better rather than worse relations among them. The Norwegians place great faith in the United Nations, and they are proud of the fact that one of their countrymen, Trygve Lie, is Secretary-General of the UN.

But Norway is not the only northern European country seeking to improve relations between Russia and the western powers. Her close neighbors—Denmark, Sweden, and Finland—are doing likewise. These countries, with the exception of Sweden, suffered terribly from the recent war, and they fear that another great-power conflict would virtually destroy them. So they are doing everything possible to remain on friendly terms with all the big nations and to work for enduring peace.

Sweden is lending a helping hand to countries which were more unfortunate than she was during the recent world conflict. She has become one of the world's biggest money lenders—one of the few countries able and willing to furnish assistance to war-torn lands. While the Swedes are very

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The northern countries of Europe

North Europe

(Concluded from page 1)

friendly with Russia, and are trading with her on a large scale, they are also bending every effort to get along well with Britain and the United States.

Denmark has closer relations with England than with Russia, for she sells a large quantity of eggs and dairy products to the British people. Nevertheless, the Danish delegates to the United Nations have used their influence in the effort to smooth out relations between Russia and the western powers.

Although Finland's case is different from that of the other three countries, since she was an ally of Germany during the war, the people of that country are also trying to keep relations harmonious all around. They have not tried to stir up trouble by seeking the aid of Britain and the United States in the attempt to get better peace terms from Russia. They are making a genuine effort to cooperate with the Russians and, at the same time, they have shown the desire to restore their prewar friendship with western Europe and the United States.

These four northern countries are alike in many ways. Before the war, they built up a prosperity which was the envy of their European neighbors. Their people rank among the best educated in the world, and they have shown their intelligence by learning to cooperate with one another in order to improve living conditions.

A visitor to the four lands would see no ugly slums, no extremely poor people on the one hand and extremely rich on the other. He would find almost

everyone busily at work. He would discover that the people, in normal times, have more food, better shelter, better health, and better education than most people in other European countries.

They have managed to do this despite the fact that they are not rich in natural resources. Except in Sweden, there are few minerals. The climate is generally severe. An important reason for their progress is that their people are intelligent, well-educated, and work together effectively.

Political Systems

Politically, all these countries except Finland are constitutional monarchies. They are very democratic. The kings have practically no power. Real authority over governmental affairs is vested in the national legislatures or parliaments.

In the economic field, the northern lands have adopted a mixture of capitalism and socialism. Much of their business and industry is still operated on the same kind of a profit basis which prevails generally in the United States. At the same time, however, the governments of these lands own and operate a number of industrial enterprises.

In addition, many northern European people have banded together and set up their own cooperative stores and factories from which they can buy goods. Any profits which these concerns make are turned back to the members of the cooperatives. Large numbers of farmers also market their products on a cooperative basis, so they do not have to pay "middle men" or dealers for this service.

The Scandinavian plan of operating industries is sometimes called "The

Middle Way," since it is halfway between socialism and capitalism. A majority of the people in the northern countries like it and some of them think their program might well be adopted by other nations.

Few Americans favor all parts of this program. Nearly all of them dislike government ownership of industries. The cooperative idea is more popular here than government ownership is. In fact there are many "Co-ops" in this country, and their advocates are enthusiastic about them. Whatever one may think of this movement, however, it has not made the comparative headway here that it has in northern Europe, and a majority of Americans favor the private-enterprise, private-profit system.

While the northern countries are similar in many ways, they are different in size, resources, and products.

Sweden is the largest of the four lands. She has an area about one-sixth larger than California, and a population of 6,400,000. Despite her many mountains, she has fertile farms which produce nearly all the food needed by her people. Her real wealth, though, is in her iron mines and her forests. With these, she produces wood products, steel, machinery, and tools. She builds ships both for herself and for other countries.

In fact, Sweden sells many of her products to foreign countries. During the next five years much of her trade will be with Russia. Sweden has agreed to sell Russia equipment for electric power stations, mining and factory machinery, locomotives, fishing vessels, steel, food, and farm animals. In return Sweden will buy raw materials which she herself does not produce—chrome, nickel, silver, pe-

troleum, cotton, flax, and manganese.

In addition to trading with Russia, Sweden has agreed to lend her 280 million dollars. This sum is part of the billion dollars which Sweden has lent or given to foreign countries since the war.

Finland, second to Sweden in size, has lost part of her territory as a result of the war. Formerly the size of Montana, she has been compelled to give up about one-tenth of this area to Russia. Because nearly all the people within the surrendered zone moved to the Finnish side of the new boundary, Finland's population remains at 3,900,000.

Forests cover more than three-fourths of Finland. So it is easy to see why wood, pulp, and paper are her most important products, and why she has so little land on which to grow food.

Finland makes cloth, iron products, and chemicals, and is building new factories to produce goods which can be given to Russia. Finland owes her powerful Soviet neighbor over 300 million dollars for war damages, and must pay the bill in manufactured products rather than in money.

Despite their present hardships, the Finns are not complaining, and are working hard to pay their debts to Russia. As a result, the Soviet leaders are letting them govern themselves without interference.

Mountainous Land

Norway is about the size of New Mexico, and has a population of 3,000,000. Almost three-fourths of the country is mountainous, and much of the remainder is covered by forests, leaving little land suitable for farming.

Two-thirds of the Norwegians live along the coast and make their living from the sea—by shipping and by fishing. Before the war Norway had the fourth largest merchant fleet in the world, but she lost half of it in the conflict. Now she is rapidly building it back, and expects to finish the task in four years.

Fishing is her leading industry. When the hauls of fish for all the European countries are added up for a year, it is usually found that the Norwegians have caught one-fourth or more of the total.

For those who do not live on the coasts, there is work to be done on farms, in the forests, and in the industries which produce chemicals, food products, and machinery. Norway is also planning to build factories in which she can produce steel, plastics, and cloth.

Denmark is about the size of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island combined, and has a population of 3,900,000. It is a green and pleasant land, a patchwork of neatly kept farms. There are no mountains.

The Danish farmer is a skilled producer of butter, eggs, bacon, grain, and other products. He makes the land yield so much food that Denmark has plenty for home use and some left over to sell to other countries. Her best customer is Great Britain.

Denmark has to buy her metals, coal, and textiles from the outside. Despite her lack of raw materials, she operates a number of industries. The most important are those which produce food products, machinery, and bicycles.

Cloth, the threads of which are covered with transparent plastic, has been developed for use in place of wallpaper. It can be washed easily with ordinary soaps.

Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"How Smart Are Beavers?" by Neil Clark, *Saturday Evening Post*.

When the Pilgrims arrived there were probably 60 million beavers on this continent. They were the magnet that drew the first explorers—the trappers—into the West, for beaver pelts brought high prices.

The success of the trappers almost led to the extinction of the beavers. Then laws were passed for their protection and their population grew. The beaver is now man's aide in conservation, doing many jobs that state conservation services cannot find time to do.



COURTESY N. Y. ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
The industrious beaver is both a blessing and a pest

One creek was filling a valuable reservoir with silt. In the spring it was a rushing torrent, carrying away top soil and dropping it into the lake. In summer, the creek was dry. Two beavers were planted along its banks. They built dams, and the creek was transformed. It furnishes water for lush meadows along its banks, and it no longer carries silt into the reservoir.

But beavers can annoy the farmer. One found them damming up his irrigation ditches. Each morning he tore down their work, and each night they rebuilt the barriers. Finally, after he had enough water for the field, the farmer decided to let the beavers have their way. But they, too, had caught on. Instead of damming up the ditches, they cut the banks and flooded the whole meadow.

Beaver pelts are still valuable. Some trapping is allowed, and some is done illegally. Beaver farming has been tried, but so far it hasn't shown up too well. The beaver does best in its natural surroundings.

"Would Unlimited Money Spell Defeat of Cancer?" by Robert E. Geiger, *Washington Star*.

No matter how much money we spend, it may be harder to conquer cancer than it was to master the secret of the atomic bomb. The main reason is that we know less about cancer today than we did about the atom in 1941 when scientists began intensive work on the bomb.

But, given enough time and money, we can overcome cancer. This is why Senator Pepper and other members of Congress are now pushing a bill which would appropriate \$100 million for more intensive study of the dread disease.

Large funds are needed for research and also for education and treatment. Even with the little now known about cancer, a third of the 17 million Americans doomed to die from this disease could be saved by present methods of treatment. Yet as matters now stand, many of these people will

not find out about their affliction in time to benefit by medical care. A great deal more money should be spent on educational campaigns to urge people to have annual health examinations.

Excerpt from *The Strange Alliance*, by John R. Deane, published by Viking Press.

During the war, Americans in Russia found that the officials they had to deal with were often suspicious and aloof. But the attitude of the common people was just the opposite. They were friendly and hospitable.

When General Eisenhower visited Moscow in 1945, for example, the Russian people gave him an enthusiastic welcome. When he appeared at a soccer game with Marshal Zhukov, the 70,000 spectators in the stadium rose and cheered for 10 minutes. There was nothing rehearsed about it—it was a sincere demonstration of the affection these people felt for the American people.

It is hard to reach the Soviet masses in our everyday dealings with Russia. But we should make every effort to break through the wall which surrounds them and seize every opportunity of nourishing the friendly spirit which is so strong in them.

"Know Your Legislature," by Jessie Ash Arndt, *Christian Science Monitor*.

Connecticut's government is on the air! Residents of the Nutmeg State need only twist their radio dials for regular reports on how their state government works, who runs it, and what its latest projects are.

It all started when the Committee on Public Information introduced a series of "Meet Your Legislature" programs. These broadcasts presented leading figures in Connecticut affairs; they offered discussions of public issues; they gave explanations

of how the government works. People liked them so well that now the state authorities plan to install a radio room in the capitol building and expand their broadcasting work.

The new room will make it possible for Connecticut citizens to listen in on public hearings and legislative debates besides hearing discussions about them. Those who are behind the plan feel that it will help to make democracy work better in their state. Miss Fay Clark, who developed the "Meet Your Legislature" programs, says: "When people really know their legislators, something is bound to happen. Fewer voters will be swayed by campaign speeches—they will judge a man on his day-by-day record."

"An Open Letter to Secretary Marshall," by Henry Wallace, *New Republic*.

Winning the peace, as you know, is as difficult as winning the war. You have already had one assignment in winning the peace—your mission to China. That you did not succeed completely is not your fault. The failure in China was the failure of the American foreign policy.

Our relations with China are only one phase of our relations with the world, but the problem everywhere is the same. In almost every nation that suffered heavily in the war, men and women are trying desperately to change the old order. That order brought them only poverty, disaster, and war.

In the face of this, however, our foreign policy has been static. We have failed to help colonial peoples in their struggle for freedom; we have not supported groups and leaders that are determined to achieve a better way of life for their countries.

We have let Russia become the leader of these groups. We have lost the loyalty of millions of workers and poor farmers in Europe. These people believe that Russia and not the United



ACME
Russia's Marshal Zhukov and our General Eisenhower became good friends during the war.

States will help them against hunger and war. If we permit this to go on, our only friends abroad will be men who think in terms of the past and who have lost the leadership of their people.

We need a foreign policy that follows the revolutionary tradition out of which this country was born—one that upholds the changes that the wrecked societies of Europe and Asia demand.

Our present policy cannot be changed by words. We must act against imperialism, and against all forces that stand in the way of social and economic progress.

"Apprenticeship vs. Mechanization," by Edwin Cady, *Scientific American*.

It is a lot easier to learn a factory job today than it was 75 years ago. Three quarters of a century ago, an apprentice started out by watching. He observed every operation his shop performed before he tried anything on his own. Then he began with simple tasks and gradually worked up to more complicated ones. By the time his apprenticeship was over, he understood all the tools and machines in his plant and knew how to use them.

Today's beginner learns how to operate one machine or use one set of tools, and that is all. Within a few weeks, he is an expert at his particular job. He cannot match the old-time worker's variety of skills or his understanding of the industrial process, but he is equally well equipped to produce.

Modern industrialists feel that it is more efficient to use intricate machines than to employ highly skilled workers. Hence more and more effort goes into the designing of special equipment and machines which can be operated after only a short training period. This system has its advantages, but many people object to it because it lessens the importance of the worker and offers him little chance to feel proud of his own craftsmanship.



How to get a tough job done

SHOEMAKER IN CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

The Story of the Week



GETTING TOGETHER. From left to right: General Dwight Eisenhower of the Army, Admiral Chester Nimitz of the Navy, and General Carl Spaatz of the Army Air Forces have agreed on a plan for unifying the armed services.

Specialists for Congress

For the first time in its history Congress now has a staff of experts in various fields ready to supply representatives and senators with facts on national problems. When a congressman wants to know, for example, the future of our export trade with South Africa, he can call upon a specialist who will know foreign trade from A to Z. Previously, each congressman had to be his own "expert" on every question which faced him.

The purpose of this new system is to give Congress all the facts on any issue. Often, representatives of groups with a selfish interest in some proposed law submit one-sided testimony to congressional committees. The experts will help in such a situation. They will go over all source material, criticize figures, and analyze opinions that are given to congressmen. They will provide impartial facts and leave decisions as to the merits of opposing arguments up to Congress.

Drastic British Plan

Because of the British Labor Party's majority strength, its newly proposed land bills have a good chance to be passed by Parliament. Together, these bills constitute one of the most far-reaching socialistic proposals yet put forth by the Labor government.

If passed, they would let the government plan and control the use of all land in Britain, both city and rural. Farmers could be made to sell their land if they were not willing to use it as directed by the government. There would be a large-scale government program of clearing slums and building modern communities.

The fact that such measures are being seriously considered shows the radical mood of the British people. It is easy to imagine what intense opposition such a plan would meet in this country.

There is opposition in Britain, too, but many people there seem to think that the new program is needed. The job of rebuilding after the war's destruction is so big that they believe the government must have power to plan it carefully and do it thoroughly. The British food shortage is so bad that the people welcome any proposal which

gives hope of better farming methods and more food. Many farmers who might otherwise disapprove favor the bills because of provisions for financial help to those who cultivate their land as the government directs.

The Conservative Party, headed by Winston Churchill, is intensely opposed to this drastic plan. It is doubtful, however, whether its members can muster sufficient strength in Parliament to defeat the land-control program.

Port of Dairen

How soon will Russia let the great Manchurian port of Dairen be reopened for world trade? That question, raised in January by notes from our State Department to both Russia and China, has not yet been answered.

Dairen, which at various times during its troubled history has seen Chinese, Russian, and Japanese control, has been occupied by Russia since the Japanese surrendered in 1945. In that same year, Russia and China agreed that the port, under Chinese administration, would be open to trading vessels of all nations.

The agreement stated, however, that when Russia and China are at war with Japan, the area around Dairen

and nearby Port Arthur shall be defended by Russia. Because of this statement, Soviet officials claim the right to control Dairen until a peace treaty with Japan is signed. China, on the other hand, argues that the war ended when Japan surrendered, and that Russia should now give up the port.

American concern arises from our desire to send trading vessels into Dairen. At present, the Russians will not permit such vessels to enter.

Science in the News

Is it possible that someone has already, without realizing it, found a drug that would cure cancer or infantile paralysis? Perhaps it is. The famous DDT was discovered more than 60 years ago, but those who made it were searching for something entirely different, and did not know that they had found the world's greatest insect-killer.

More than 30 years ago, a scientist made sulfanilamide, but not until many years later did anyone learn of its great value in fighting disease.

Research workers have for a long time seen the need for a central office that would record, on a nation-wide scale at least, all newly discovered substances and their known characteristics. Men searching for a chemical to perform some job could go there to see whether anything that might fill their needs had already been found.

A Chemical-Biological Coordinating Center, recently set up by the National Research Council in Washington, D. C., is expected to serve that purpose for the chemists who study carbon compounds. Thus we will have a better chance to get the full benefit of their discoveries. Many great healing drugs are to be found in this group of chemicals.

Movie Classic

Les Miserables is one of the great stories of all time. Victor Hugo's powerful portrayal of how poverty and injustice can lead to crime, and how a charitable spirit can redeem the most hardened, has been a favorite with booklovers for more than half a century.

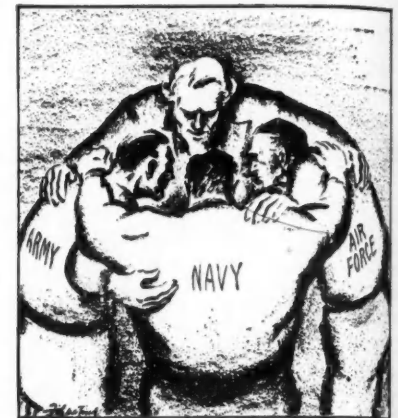
Some years ago, *Les Miserables* was introduced to the movie public. Frederic March played the embittered thief, Jean Valjean; Charles Laughton was Javert, the detective; Sir Cedric Hardwicke enacted the role of the bishop.

Now Twentieth Century-Fox is releasing the film again. It is well worth seeing. Many who saw it earlier will want a repeat performance.

Hawaiian Statehood

At least 10 bills to make Hawaii our 49th state have been introduced in the present session of Congress. One of these is sponsored by Mr. Joseph Farrington, Hawaii's non-voting delegate to the House of Representatives.

Mr. Farrington does not think that



FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
One team

his territory will have to wait much longer before entering the Union as a full-fledged state. Members of both major parties in Congress have introduced bills for Hawaiian statehood, and President Truman recently urged their adoption.

An official poll of opinion, taken in 1940, indicated that the people of Hawaii were two to one in favor of statehood. Mr. Farrington believes that such a poll, if taken now, would show them to be in favor of it by about four to one.

French Leaders

The new president of France, Vincent Auriol, is a Socialist. He was elected by the French parliament. One of his first acts was to appoint another Socialist, Paul Ramadier, to be the premier.

This does not mean, however, that the Socialists will have full control in France. Their party is not the largest in parliament. Both the Communists and the Popular Republicans have many more members.

These larger parties put Socialists in the highest positions for this reason: Neither of these parties had a majority in parliament. Neither was able, by its own votes, to elect a president, and neither wanted the place to go to its chief opponent. It was decided, therefore, to give the position to the Socialists.

President Auriol does not have much power. The real head of the government is Premier Ramadier. In order to get laws passed, the premier must have support from both of the other parties. If many of the Communists and Popular Republicans vote against any important measure that he recom-



LES MISERABLES, a film based on the great French classic, is being revived. Those who saw the picture earlier, and those who will see it for the first time, will find rare entertainment in the outstanding performances of Frederic March, Charles Laughton, and Rochelle Hudson.

mends, it will be defeated and he must then resign.

To remain in office any length of time Ramadier must be a good compromiser. He must adopt foreign and domestic policies which have the approval of parties other than his own. In short, he has a tough job ahead of him.

A Great Athlete

Charlie Trippi, the famed University of Georgia halfback who has just signed a contract to play professional football with the Chicago Cardinals, is still looking for a job as a professional baseball player.

When Trippi is graduated from Georgia University in March he will be ready to join a team for spring training. He has told sports writers that he wants to play both sports. He's an all-America halfback, yet he hit over .400 for the Georgia baseball team last spring and is described by the great Carl Hubbell as a "natural ball player." Other great football stars who tried baseball, however, failed on the diamond. Among them were Jim Thorpe, Fred Sington and Ace Parker.

Brazil Compels Voting

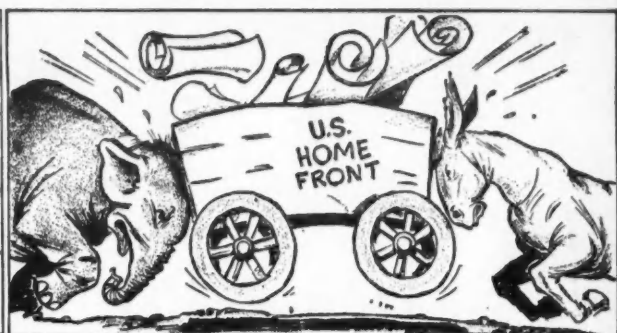
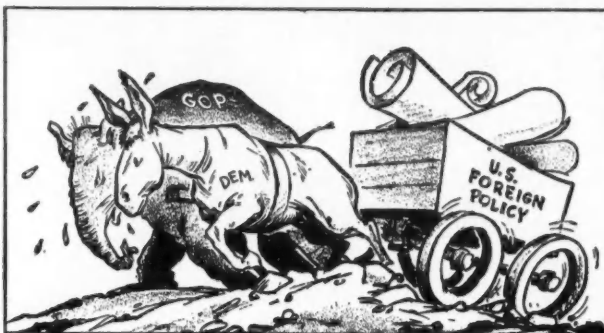
More than 1½ million people who failed to vote in the recent elections in Brazil will be fined from \$5 to \$15 under a law which seeks to compel all voters in that country to go to the polls at election time.

Costa Rica is another Latin American nation which believes that voting is a responsibility as well as a privilege. Costa Ricans who fail to vote are fined and also barred from employment in the government service.

Some Americans have proposed that voting be made compulsory in the United States too. Others contend that uninformed and indifferent citizens would do more harm by voting in elections of no interest to them than they now do by staying away from the polls. What do you think?

Dispute Over Poland

The sweeping victory won by the communist-supported candidates in Poland's recent election came as no surprise to U. S. and British officials. They



IT'S FAR BETTER that the situation is like this than if it were the other way around

had predicted that the anti-communist parties would not have a chance.

Several weeks before the election, both England and the United States protested against what they considered to be the "unfairness" of the campaign. They said that the Polish leaders then in power refused to allow the names of certain opposition candidates to appear on the ballot. Other candidates, they charged, were not allowed to campaign freely.

The British and American governments accused the Polish leaders of violating a major-power agreement guaranteeing the people of that country a free, democratic election. These pre-election protests, however, were not heeded.

The new parliament will no doubt maintain close relations with Russia, and Poland will remain in the Soviet sphere of influence. Whether there will be any change in our policy toward that country is not known as we go to press.

Are They That Bad?

In John Mason Brown's recently published book *Seeing Things*, there is a quotation from George Bernard Shaw which high school teachers and students should find amusing.

A publishing company asked for permission to include part of Shaw's *Saint Joan* in a volume for use in high schools. The sharp-tongued Irish wit replied:

"No. I lay my eternal curse on whomever shall now, or at any time hereafter, make school books of my works, and make me hated as Shakespeare is hated. My plays were not designed as instruments of torture. All the schools that lust after them get

this answer, and will never get another from—G. Bernard Shaw."

North and South Poles

The phrase, "as opposite as the Poles," has more meaning than we generally realize. The Arctic and Antarctic regions are opposite in practically every respect except temperature, and even in that they differ.

At the North Pole we find a great sea, about 10,000 feet deep, while much of the continent at the South Pole is a plateau about 10,000 feet high. The Arctic Ocean is surrounded by the great land masses of North America, Asia, and Europe, while the Antarctic Continent is surrounded by the vast Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans.

The Arctic, being lower in altitude, is a little more mild in temperature than is its southern opposite. In the brief northern summer, the ground thaws and becomes marshy on top, and flowers bloom. There are many human settlements inside the Arctic Circle. Since the development of the airplane, interest in the Arctic has increased, for the shortest air routes between our great northern continents pass over it.

In the remote Antarctic, however, cold air sweeps down from the high central plateau and mountains to make the surrounding sea stormy and disagreeable. So far is the Antarctic continent from human settlements, and so forbidding are its approaches, that men go near it only for purposes of exploration or for whaling. Its great sheet of ice hides enough mysteries to keep explorers busy for many years to come.

Minnesota Senator

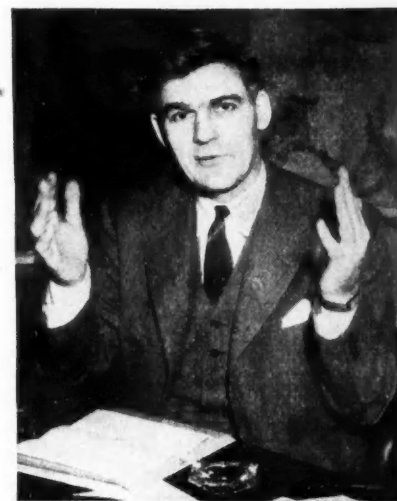
Until recently, most people thought of Senator Joseph Ball only in connection with foreign affairs. The tall, deliberate lawmaker from Minnesota seldom came into the limelight except as a spokesman for world cooperation. Now, however, he is emerging as a leader in national affairs as well. He is prominent in Congress as an advocate of new laws to regulate labor unions.

Ball was a political writer in his middle thirties when Minnesota's Governor Stassen appointed him, in 1940, to fill a U. S. Senate vacancy. His appointment brought strong protest from many people in Minnesota. At that time most of them were deeply opposed to American participation in the war, whereas Ball favored strong support for countries fighting the Nazis.

He voted, in 1941, for lend-lease aid to such countries, although letters to Congress from his state were about 25 to 1 against it. Then he toured Minnesota, trying to win people to his point of view. By 1942, he had

enough support to be re-elected to the Senate. The next year, letters from Minnesota to Washington were 20 to 1 in support of his campaign for vigorous American cooperation with the allied powers.

Although Ball concentrated on foreign affairs during the war, he had strong feelings about the way our national affairs were conducted. He talked and voted against most of President Roosevelt's program for the



Joseph Ball

home front. Now he appears to be ready to make a strong fight in the attempt to reduce the power of national labor organizations and leaders.

Union officials and their supporters accuse him of being an "enemy of the workingman." They say he is trying to "cripple" the strength of labor at the very time that Big Business is more powerful than ever before. His friends, on the other hand, say that he is able, progressive, and interested in seeing that no one group in the nation gets too much power.

Progress in Photography

Movie producers are now following closely the development of a new method of photography. It is called "trivision," and gives pictures of a lifelike appearance.

The movies and photographs which we see today show us only the tallness and wideness of the scenes or people in the picture. With trivision, pictures will have not only length and breadth, but depth as well. This will make photographs and movies give a view of things just as our eyes see them.

The trivision process is not yet ready to be demonstrated, but scientists hope to have it perfected sometime next summer. One movie producer thinks that within a few years, every movie made will use trivision, giving all motion pictures the lifelike appearance of a play on the stage.



FROM BROADWAY TO PERU. Twenty trolleys that clanged up and down New York's Broadway for many years will soon make their debut on the streets of Lima. New Yorkers, who have ridden on these cars, will sympathize with the Peruvians.

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THE ARMED FORCES are carrying on a strenuous recruiting campaign and are urging compulsory military training. They think the latter is necessary for a strong national defense.

Compulsory Military Training

(Concluded from page 1)

Such is the plan which is being discussed in Congress and throughout the country. In this article we shall outline the main points of conflict which have developed in the course of the debate.

On certain facts involved in this dispute, friends and foes are in agreement. It is understood, for example, that wars of the future will differ greatly from those which have been fought in the past. Nations will probably strike with atomic bombs, rockets, giant planes which travel with the speed of sound, deadly germs, and other weapons which have not yet been conceived.

To prepare for such a war, we must have a highly trained Army, Navy, and Air Force. These regular military services should have the best available scientific and engineering assistance. We must have factories and plants equipped to furnish the most modern and effective implements of war. There is no real conflict over these needs.

But agreement ends here, and the debate over compulsory military training begins. The remainder of our discussion will consist of controversial questions, followed by pro and con answers. In each case, the "yes" answer is that given by supporters of compulsory training; the "no" answer represents the opposition.

1. In addition to our regular forces of highly skilled fighting men and scientists, do we need a huge reserve army whose members have had one year's military training?

Yes. If nations fight again they will probably use powerful, modern weapons which may destroy cities and take many lives, but wars cannot be won with these weapons alone. If we should attack an enemy from the air; if we should raze many of the cities and towns, we would still need ground forces to go in and take possession, to solidify the gain, and to bring the war to a successful end.

If, on the other hand, an enemy should attack us from the air, he would not have us at his mercy until he sent in large armies to complete the conquest. We would need great armies to repel this effort. So long as men walk

on land, use wheel transportation, sail the seas, or parachute to earth from the air, ground armies will be a vital factor in war.

We want, in our regular Army, Navy, and Air Forces, the trained experts that will furnish the central core of our military defense system. But we must also have a great reserve of trained manpower, to be available in the case of need.

The universal military training program would instruct about a million men per year. It would remove the bewilderment that all new recruits feel, and would teach them how to be useful members of an efficient military unit. With the reserve that it would furnish, our military experts can work out a sound plan for possible future emergency.

No. Scientists tell us that in any future war it will be possible for an entire country to be paralyzed within a matter of hours, or at most, of days. In such a war, it is unthinkable that we would have time to mobilize great numbers of men for the purpose of invading the enemy's territory some months later.

We shall not have use in a modern war for huge armed forces such as compulsory military service would provide. Planning for such forces would be a waste of money and effort.

Furthermore, a program of this kind could easily endanger our national defense, for if we should send a million young men to camp every year, people might be lulled into a sense of false security. They might think that the training of millions of American youth would adequately prepare us for war, and thus neglect to maintain the permanent, highly skilled technical forces which are required.

We should not place our future safety in the hands of millions of partly trained fighting men. The art of modern warfare requires continuous training. With swift changes in fighting techniques, we need soldiers, sailors, and pilots who stay in the service year after year, constantly improving their methods and their skills. Military service must be made to offer enough pay and enough advantages so that large numbers of men will be glad

to go into it as a lifetime career.

A fighting force patterned along these lines would cost more than the War Department universal military training program, but it would be far better from the standpoint of national security. And security must be the point that governs our choice.

2. Can the United States adopt military service without weakening the United Nations as a peace-preserving organization?

Yes. If the United Nations is to be effective in maintaining peace it must have at its command armed forces large enough to put down any aggressor. These armed forces can be supplied only by the great nations, of which the United States is one. If we are weak and unready for war, we cannot properly support the UN.

Naturally we should work for a program of disarmament for all nations, but we will have little influence in persuading other countries to disarm if we lack military strength to back up our arguments. If we are powerful, we will be able to drive better bargains with other great nations.

Furthermore, we must recognize the fact that, though disarmament has been discussed in the United Nations, no program as yet has been adopted. Until other countries are definitely ready to disarm, we should maintain strong military power.

No. In order to support the United Nations, in order to help that organization put down aggressors, we need not use large land armies but a well trained professional fighting force.

It will be a dangerous thing for the United States to adopt compulsory military service at a time when efforts are being made to get all the nations to cut their armaments. The nations, seeing us prepare for war as we have never done before in time of peace, would think that we lacked confidence in the United Nations. They, too, would lose faith in that organization and, instead of disarming, would seek to strengthen their military forces.

3. Would a year's military training improve standards of health and citizenship?

Yes. Though American young people generally are aware of democracy's rights and privileges, they have less understanding of its obligations. They

are proud of America's luxuries, but many of them still must learn that work and sacrifice are needed too.

There are ways in which older citizens are compelled to make contributions to the community in return for the benefits it gives. Among these are tax payment and jury duty. The country is justified in calling upon young men to contribute their time and effort toward building national strength. They would end their period of training with improved physical condition, increased ability to get along with other people, and a realization that American citizenship carries responsibilities as well as privileges.

No. The quality of American citizenship would suffer as a result of compulsory military training. Soldiers are told to obey—to follow orders unquestioningly. This type of training may in some cases produce a resentment against any form of discipline and authority, and it can seldom produce the careful, intelligently critical thinker that today's problems demand.

If we are thinking about civic and health improvement we must remember that a military service program affects only half the young people of the nation. It is a program for men, and girls have no part in it. If we mean business about improving health and citizenship standards, we should go about the work directly instead of indirectly. We should improve the schools, provide the right kind of citizenship and health education, and establish recreational facilities for all youth.

Irrigation projects now being carried on by the United States Bureau of Reclamation are expected to furnish water for about 4 million acres of western land that is now too dry for farming. To speed the work on this program, engineers are using large machines which, moving forward a foot per minute, dig a canal about 16 feet wide at the top, 3 feet wide at the bottom, and 5 feet deep.

A Chicago inventor has designed a bricklaying machine with which a crew of 10 men can lay about 100,000 bricks a day. This is approximately the same number of bricks that 200 men, using ordinary methods, can lay in a day.

SMILES

An engineer declares that he can construct absolutely undentable bodies for motorcars. But can he do the same for pedestrians?

★ ★ ★

An American who recently visited Moscow was placed on an outgoing plane by the authorities five minutes after his arrival. Publication of his book, "Soviet Russia from the Inside," is expected shortly.

★ ★ ★

Scientists are at work on an anti-aircraft ray, calculated to paralyze motors. Our garages are full of such motors every winter.

★ ★ ★

A cafeteria on Broadway has the following sign in the window: "Courteous Self-Service."

★ ★ ★

Toothpaste is advertised to do so many things it seems a shame just to brush it on your teeth.

"Excellent footwork has won many fights," declares a trainer. Yes—and also prevented many.

★ ★ ★

An enterprising musician has compiled a huge catalogue containing the themes of all the old songs. Another way of finding them, of course, is to listen to the new songs on the radio.



KELLER IN SATURDAY EVENING POST
"Who is she? She comes in late every morning"

Readers Say—

We are writing in answer to a letter in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER asking whether or not we should feed Japan. We believe that the United States should send food to Japan. When people are hungry they cannot think of peace. By sending food and clothing to Japan, we can build up her confidence in us. The children particularly should not be deprived of food. To do so would poison their minds against the world.

CATHERINE ROBERTS and JEAN McELFRESH,
McConnelville, Ohio.

Recently Dale Baker wrote to this column saying, "I think Russia, Greece, and Britain should come to some agreement" about affairs in Greece.

I answer that we, a democratic and free land, cannot uphold the right of Britain and Russia to interfere in the government of another free country—and Greece is an independent nation. Both Russia and Britain want to protect their interests in the eastern Mediterranean. Self-preservation is important, but it can be carried too far.

Let Greece settle her own problems! If strong nations would stop struggling to control weaker nations, we would have passed the first milestone on the road to everlasting peace.

JESSE LOWEN,
Yonkers, New York.

In your issue of January 6, in the "Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion," Karl T. Compton referred to the statement of a Japanese Army officer that the Japanese would have fought until all of them were killed. Compton stated that had we not dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Japanese probably would not have surrendered.

I would like to mention that, during the war, the U. S. Navy torpedoed much Japanese shipping carrying food and supplies. When the Japanese were practically starving during the late spring and



early summer of 1945, they sent notes to Washington offering to surrender—not unconditionally, however.

RICHARD R. FAIRBANKS,
Yakima, Washington.

We do not think the Palestine problem is a fight between the Jews and the Arabs, with England stepping in to keep the peace. Instead of having opposite views, the Jews and Arabs are united in their desire to get England out of Palestine. We feel confident that, without Britain, there would be no Palestine problem.

R. RING, M. WEINTRAUB, and
E. ZARONTZ,
Dorchester, Massachusetts.

It is my belief that if more money were set aside annually for better educational and recreational facilities, the national crime debt of 15 billion dollars a year could be greatly reduced.

The current upward trend in crime is due to lack of proper training for young people. If a person is made to realize, while he is young, that honesty and goodness pay off, he is bound to set high standards for himself, and to develop into a useful and creditable citizen.

NICHOLAS S. MASKALERIS,
Maplewood, New Jersey.

I think John D. Rockefeller, Jr., has done a great thing for the United Nations in giving it land for its home. We welcome the UN to the United States, and we hope the organization will be successful.

JIMMY KENNERD,
Greenwell Springs, Louisiana.



Egypt Seeks Independence

People and Leaders Strongly Desire Complete Withdrawal of All British Troops from Their Country

LIKE several other Middle Eastern countries today, Egypt is more concerned about throwing off foreign influences than anything else. She wants to cut her old ties with Britain and strike out as a fully independent nation in partnership with neighboring Arab states.

For months now, Egyptian leaders have been trying to arrange for Britain's withdrawal from their country. The British are willing to get out if they can have until 1949 to move their troops. They also want a promise of Egyptian help in time of war. Many people of that land object to these terms. They also disagree with Britain over the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

Up to now, the British and Egyptians have run this huge territory adjoining Egypt on a joint basis. Now the Egyptians want to rule it alone. Britain thinks she should stay in the Sudan until its people are ready to decide their own future. This might be a long time unless educational progress is speeded up.

Until these issues are settled, the Egyptians can do little to improve their country, which is badly in need of modernization. Although their land has natural wealth, her people have been backward ever since their ancient civilization declined some 2,000 years ago.

Egypt owes what riches she has to the great Nile River. This mighty stream flows north through the country, enriching the soil and improving the climate for miles on either side. If it were not for the Nile, the land of Egypt, which is larger than Texas and Oklahoma combined, would be nothing more than an expanse of sunbaked stone and desert.

As it is, the Nile gives Egypt an area of extraordinarily fertile land. Improved by irrigation, this land yields important crops of cotton, wheat, barley, rice, and sugar. The soil is so productive that even without modern farming methods, the Egyptians get much more cotton from each acre than American farmers do. They can grow twice as much wheat per acre as we do and twice as much rice as the Japanese.

It is in the farming areas of the Nile Valley that most of Egypt's people live. More than 16 million are crowded into a strip of territory about the size of

Maryland and Delaware combined, while the rest of the country remains almost deserted.

The people are of mixed national stock. Most of the poor farmers who make up a majority of the population are descendants of the ancient Egyptians. There are also great numbers of Arabic people whose forefathers came in when the Arabs invaded Egypt more than 1,000 years ago. In the cities, many Greeks can be found.

Most of these people are extremely poor and uneducated. They farm tiny patches of land or earn a meager living in the cities as merchants and craftsmen. Wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few large landholders, mainly Arabs.

Egypt has almost no industry. There are a few big sugar mills and scattered factories of other types which were built during the war. But no more than a tenth of the Egyptian people have ever drawn an income from industry.

In spite of the lack of industry, Egypt has her big cities. Cairo and Alexandria, for example, compare favorably with any of the world's major ports. Built in the days of Egypt's ancient greatness, these cities live on trade today. Here, the products of the Nile Valley are loaded on outbound ships. Here, too, come large quantities of goods from the Far East, moving through the Suez Canal on their way to Europe and America.

Straight Thinking

By Clay Cross

MANY people in the United States are discouraged about the results of the war. They say that the country is now worse off than it was before. Our home problems have multiplied and, despite the fact that our enemies were defeated, there is still danger of aggression, and world peace is not assured. What good did it do us, then, to win the war?

All this is true but it is only part of the truth. By winning the war we did not make conditions better than they would have been if there had been no conflict. We *did* make them better than they would have been if Germany and Japan had been allowed to go ahead with their plans to rule the world. We are not better off than we were in 1941, but we are better off than we would be today if our enemies had won.

If you defeat and capture robbers who are breaking into your house, you are not better off than if there had been no robbers. You are in worse condition if they damage your home during the struggle. But you and your neighbors are better off than would have been the case if the robbers had stolen valuable goods and had remained free to attack other homes. You have protected your belongings and have gained an opportunity to help clean up the city and rid it of criminals.



That is the kind of gain we make when we win a war. We stave off immediate danger and have a chance to work for better and safer world conditions.

Wars do not solve problems. They leave extremely difficult issues in their path. But they give the victors a breathing space; an opportunity to remove the causes of war, poverty, and discontent.

We would not have had this chance if we had stood aside, allowing Germany and Japan to have their way in the world, or if we had lost the war. It is our job today to take advantage of the opportunity which military victory has given us. Straight-thinking Americans will cast off the mood of discouragement and cynicism, and will look to the future with resolution and hope.

Your Vocabulary

In each of the sentences below, match the italicized word with the word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Turn to page 8, column 3, for the correct answers.

1. They were in a *quandary*. (a) jail (b) state of doubt and puzzlement (c) state of terror (d) bad condition.
2. He feels *languid*. (a) sluggish (b) excited (c) disgusted (d) talkative.
3. The man was filled with *apprehension*. (a) food (b) anger (c) joy (d) fear.
4. They had a feeling of *chagrin*

(shū grin'). (a) pleasure (b) hunger (c) disappointment (d) fatigue.

5. That problem requires *cogitation* (kōj ī tā' shūn). (a) use of algebra (b) intuition (c) discussion (d) thought.

6. He acts like a *buffoon*. (a) clown (b) monkey (c) sensible person (d) waiter.

7. The idea was *repugnant* to them. (a) delightful (b) distasteful (c) exciting (d) amusing.

8. He *mused* over the situation. (a) meditated (b) laughed (c) worried (d) talked.

Careers for Tomorrow - - Merchant Marine

THE postwar Merchant Marine of the United States offers young men a career that combines financial security with a life of travel. In addition it offers educational opportunities, for like the Army and Navy, it has a training school for officers—the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York.

Aboard a merchant vessel, the personnel is divided into four main groups: the deck and engine departments, responsible for the ship's operation; the steward's department, in charge of the crew's living quarters; and the purser's department, which handles the ship's various business transactions.

The captain or master is the highest authority on the ship. Each department in turn has its own officers subject to the captain's orders. In the deck department there are the chief mate, the second mate, the third mate, and the non-licensed personnel. The engine department includes the chief engineer, the first, second, and third assistant engineers, and non-licensed personnel.

Both deck and engineer officers must be highly qualified in their respective fields. Deck officers must be capable seamen and skilled navigators. They must have a thorough knowledge of ship maintenance and construction, of rules concerning sea traffic, international law, and foreign trade.

Engineer officers have charge of the mechanical and electrical equipment on the ship. They must have sound knowledge of marine engineering, of ship construction, and of ship repairs.

At sea the engineer and deck officers

are primarily concerned with the safe operation of the vessel. In port, they get the ship ready for the next voyage—supervising the necessary repairs, and seeing that fuel and cargo are brought aboard.



Captain instructing a midshipman on the bridge of a ship

During the past few years, living conditions and salaries of personnel in the merchant marine have improved greatly. Now the salaries compare favorably with those paid in positions carrying equal responsibility in other trades and professions. All officers in the merchant marine receive living quarters and food aboard ship. In addition, masters receive from \$581 to \$638 per month; first mates from \$354 to \$389; second mates from \$312 to \$344; and third mates from \$283 to \$317.

A young man can qualify for a license as a third mate by graduating

from the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy or from one of the state maritime academies. He may also serve at sea in a non-licensed capacity for a required period, although the schooling routes offer the best opportunities.

California, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, and Maine have state academies primarily for residents of those states, but outsiders can attend under certain conditions.

High school graduates, regardless of their state or residence, may apply for admission to the U. S. academy, which is operated by the federal government. Admission is based on entrance examinations. Young men who qualify receive a four-year college course, including general subjects and special marine training, at the government's expense. They also are furnished food, quarters, and an allowance of \$65 per month.

Students interested in attending the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy may secure full information by writing to the Deputy Supervisor, U. S. Merchant Marine Cadet Corps Training Organization, U. S. Maritime Commission, Washington 25, D. C. The next entrance examination will be given on April 4, 1947. High school graduates and students scheduled to graduate during 1947 are eligible to take part in this test.

After their service at sea, officers of the merchant marine may find interesting jobs with good pay in shipping and allied fields. There are also opportunities in governmental service related to this work for men who have the necessary background in education and experience.

Study Guide

Military Training

1. List the main features of the Army's plan for compulsory military training.
2. How do Army officials and their supporters argue that this plan will make the nation more secure? What reply is made to this argument?
3. In what way do advocates of military training claim it will strengthen the United Nations? Why do opponents feel that it will weaken the UN?
4. Present the case of those who say this plan would raise standards of health and citizenship among young men. What reply is made by the opponents?

Discussion

1. What, in your opinion, is the best argument in favor of compulsory military training?
2. What do you think is the best argument against the plan?
3. What is your own position regarding this issue? Explain your answer.

Northern Europe

1. Why is Norway anxious for the Spitsbergen dispute to be settled in a manner which will satisfy both Russia and the western powers?
2. What does Russia want in this group of islands?
3. Why do Britain and the United States have an interest in this matter?
4. How are Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland all working in the effort to insure peace?
5. Which of the four countries suffered the least during the war, and how is it now helping its more unfortunate neighbors?
6. How democratic are the governments of these northern lands? Which ones have kings?
7. What is the character of their economic systems?

Discussion

1. Russia claims that Britain and the United States have island bases all over the world, and that she is justified in seeking bases in Spitsbergen and elsewhere. Do you think she has a good case, or can you think of good arguments to combat her position?
2. Many students of foreign affairs believe that any world disarmament plan, in order to be truly effective, must give the UN authority to prevent any islands from being fortified. What do you think?
3. What lessons, if any, do you think that the rest of Europe might learn from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland?

Miscellaneous

1. Briefly describe the land-control program now being proposed by the Labor Party in England.
2. Where do most of the people in Egypt live?
3. Where is Dairen, and what is the controversy over it?
4. Why is our government dissatisfied with the recent Polish election?
5. How do Brazil and Costa Rica try to force all voters to go to the polls?

Outside Reading

Military Training

"Conscription and the West Point Mind," by Arthur Morgan, *American Mercury*, February 1946. Presenting the argument that military training would make men less able to think for themselves.

"Military Strength of the United States," by James Byrnes, *Vital Speeches*, April 1, 1946. A statement in favor of compulsory military training.

Northern Europe

"Nothing Rotten in Denmark," by Joseph Simon, *Current History*, July 1946. Denmark's recovery from the war.

"Postwar Sweden," by George Solovitchik, *Survey Graphic*, August 1946. A study of Sweden's economic life.

"Valiant Is the Word for Finland," by Demaree Bess, *Saturday Evening Post*, October 12, 1946. Finland of today.

"The New Norway," by Conrad Swendsen, *Rotarian*, November 1946. How Norwegians fought the Nazis, and how they are living now.

Historical Backgrounds - - by David S. Muzzey

THE American people have always had to deal with crime and criminals. No era of our history has been free of this problem. During the colonial period travelers were sometimes robbed on their journeys or when they spent the night at an inn. As cities grew up during the 19th century, there was an increase in the number of robberies, murders, and other crimes.



David S. Muzzey

The prisons were usually full, and reports of thefts were common.

The punishments for criminals in the early days were very harsh when judged by modern standards. During the colonial period lawbreakers were whipped or branded, or were held up to public ridicule in the stocks or pillory. Others were thrown into prisons which were only a little better than the dungeons of the Middle Ages. They were dirty, disease-ridden, and overcrowded. Young and old, first offenders and hardened criminals, were all herded together in a common jail.

A large number of crimes were punishable by the death penalty. Executions were held in public and were meant to warn the onlookers against violating the law. In every city the gallows stood in a public place as a warning to lawbreakers.

Early in our history thousands of persons were imprisoned each year for

not paying their debts, many of which were trifling in amount. The sheriff of New York reported in 1816, for example, that over half his prisoners had been thrown into jail for debts of less than \$25.

These methods of dealing with crime and indebtedness were needlessly cruel and usually unsatisfactory. No attempt was made to reform the criminals and help them live better lives. Those who were imprisoned for being in debt were not given a chance to earn money to pay back what they owed.

To remedy these and other undesirable conditions, many reforms were adopted during the years before the Civil War. Fines and imprisonment were substituted for branding, whipping, standing in the pillory, and other forms of colonial punishment. The whipping post was abolished in most of the states. The number of crimes punishable by death was reduced, and some states abolished the death penalty altogether. The prisons were improved, and first offenders were kept separate from hardened criminals.

In the last 50 years, intelligent efforts have been made to reform criminals and to remove the causes of crime. Although much progress has been made, much still remains to be done. During recent years, the crime rate has increased very sharply, especially among young people. In 1945 the cost of crime was estimated at 15 billion dollars, or many times the cost of all our public schools.

We need to redouble our efforts to

prevent crime by means of education, by fostering greater respect for law, and by constantly combating social and economic conditions which tend to breed crime.

Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (b) state of doubt and puzzlement; 2. (a) sluggish; 3. (d) fear; 4. (c) disappointment; 5. (d) thought; 6. (a) clown; 7. (b) distasteful; 8. (a) meditated.

Pronunciations

Les Miserables—lay-mē zair ahbl'
Auriol—ah-rē-all'
Dairen—die-wren (accented equally)
Ramadier—rah-mah'dēā



The pillory was used to punish minor offenders in early America